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5 June 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PROJECTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: Application for Research Project to be conducted outside the government

ENCLOSURE: TAB A: Request for funds to defray costs of an external research project

I. The Problem

Many National Intelligence Estimates deal with the probable intentions of the Kremlin. It may be assumed that in deciding upon a course of action, the Kremlin is influenced by its estimate of the U.S. power available to counter that course of action and by its estimate of how U. S. policy makers are likely to use that power. An NIE on the intentions of the Kremlin cannot be written without ONE's having an estimate of the Kremlin's estimate of U. S. capabilities and intentions. To procure such an estimate is the problem.

II. Discussion

The estimate at issue consists of two parts: The first deals with U. S. military forces in being as of a given date (1 September 1951). The second deals with probable U. S. intentions with respect to world situation. Both parts of such an estimate may be made by people skilled in research techniques using unclassified sources of information. CIA, of course, possesses the personnel and informational resources to do the job, but since the Agency is fully extended on other high security tasks which cannot be delegated to the outside, it would seem wise to have this one done outside the government. Informal enquiries have indicated that one team at [REDACTED] and another perhaps at [REDACTED] can do the work during the summer vacation. What they turn up without access to classified documents will have the virtue of being what the Kremlin can find out about the U. S. with minimal intelligence effort.

III. Recommendations

a. The sum of \$60,000 in unvouchered funds be allocated.

b. [REDACTED]
be designated executive agent for this project.

c. The project be unclassified and personnel be employed to work on it without security clearance.

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Attachment

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WILLIAM L. LANGER
Assistant Director, ONE

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